

Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, September 2011

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*WKU President Gary Ransdell (left) and Bowling Green Technical College President Nathan Hodges signed a joint admissions agreement on Aug. 9 at BGTC's Kentucky Advanced Technology Institute campus.*

### WKU, Bowling Green Technical College sign joint admissions agreement

WKU and Bowling Green Technical College signed a joint admissions agreement in August that will offer students a seamless path to a four-year degree. The initiative will allow students to jointly enroll at both institutions, giving them access to more resources and create a smooth transfer process.

"The heart of the agreement creates the foundation for future students to begin their higher education journey at BGTC and successfully transfer to WKU," said BGTC President Dr. Nathan Hodges.

"WKU is pleased to partner with BGTC and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System on this important initiative to ensure that Kentucky's students have the best possible opportunity to attain a bachelor's degree," said WKU President Gary Ransdell. "BGTC students who are jointly admitted will be on track to complete a four-year degree from the first day and can begin to take advantage of student services and activities that are available to all WKU students."

WKU has similar agreements with Henderson, Hopkinsville and Madisonville community colleges and Owensboro Community and Technical College. See

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/08/09/wku-bgtc-agreement/>

### Supercomputer boosts research power

The computing power available at WKU is getting supersized. WKU's Ogden College of Science and Engineering received \$2.379 million in 2009 from the U.S. Department of Education for the installation of the High Performance Computing Center and the Lost River Data Center in the WKU Center for Research and Development. WKU provided an additional \$50,000.

In August, representatives of PSCC Labs of Lake Forest, Calif., delivered and installed the nine racks of processors and other equipment that include 3,256 physical Intel cores, 3,256 virtual cores and 7,168 nvidia Tesla GPU cores providing a maximum performance of 55 terra flops. That's 7,000 times more powerful than the average laptop. It allows WKU to offer a powerful combination of research and data support tools to WKU, other universities and industries around the country. For more, see

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/08/11/supercomputer/>



*Dr. Claire Rinehart, (left) co-director of WKU's High Performance Computing Center, and Tony Perrella of PSCC Labs move one of the units during installation of a supercomputer at the Center for Research and Development.*

### **Honors College students earn awards**

Two students in the Honors College at WKU have earned prestigious awards.

Senior Sara Moody of Warsaw, Ky., received a Foundation for Global Scholars award that funded a social work internship in India this summer and complemented her earlier international experiences. Moody previously won an award from the Foundation for Global Scholars to study in China. Before returning to WKU to begin her senior year, Moody completed her internship with the Madras Christian Council of Social Services in India planning advocacy and group therapy sessions for the Human Trafficking program in addition to taking an experiential course at the Foundation for Ecological Research Advocacy and Learning in India. For more on Sara, see <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/06/moody-award/>



*Honors students Sara Moody and Clarice Esch.*

Junior Clarice Esch of Somerset, a recent graduate of the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, received a Greater Research Opportunity Fellowship by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For the next two years Esch will receive nearly \$50,000 in financial support, including a stipend, tuition payment, and an allowance for educational expenses, from the EPA as she completes her degree. As one of almost 40 students from around the country to receive this award, Esch will also receive funding for an internship between her junior and senior years. For more on Clarice, see <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/08/12/esch-fellowship/>

### **Foster selected as president-elect of state climatologists' organization**

Dr. Stuart Foster is president-elect of the American Association of State Climatologists (AASC). Dr. Foster is the state climatologist for Kentucky, director of the Kentucky Mesonet and the Kentucky Climate Center, and professor of geography at WKU. After serving in this position for one year, Dr. Foster will begin a two-year term as AASC president beginning in July 2012. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/08/30/foster-aasc/>

### **Study shows WKU has major impact on Warren County economy**

WKU's impact on Warren County's economy goes far beyond money students and employees spend on food, housing and entertainment, according to a study from WKU's Center for Applied Economics.

Directly and indirectly, WKU accounts for about 26 percent of expenditures (\$672 million), 14 percent of the jobs (6,600) and 10 percent of the earnings (\$252 million) in Warren County, according to the report prepared by Dr. Brian Goff and Dr. Catherine Carey, co-directors of the center in the Gordon Ford College of Business. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/07/28/economic-impact/>

### **Energy saving plan allows WKU to do more while using, spending less**

When it comes to utilities, a combination of energy saving initiatives has allowed WKU to do more while using, and spending, less. Over the summer, WKU adjusted hours of operation to reduce cooling demand during peak usage hours. This, along with efforts to reduce energy consumption through an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC), resulted in a 16.2 percent reduction in electrical usage compared to the summer of 2010. The savings is more significant since the square footage being serviced increased almost 2.8 percent with the addition of Gary A. Ransdell Hall.

By comparing electrical bills for the two summers, WKU saved \$160,802. However, if WKU had used the same amount of electricity, it would have paid \$271,253 more in 2011 because of the increase in cost per kilowatt-hour. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/08/24/energysavings/>

### **WKU's Class of 2015 urged to 'finish' during Assembly**

At 3,475 members, the Class of 2015 is one of the largest freshman classes at WKU. President Gary Ransdell wants it to be the largest graduating class as well. Dr. Ransdell, senior running back Bobby Rainey and others urged many of the class at Freshman Assembly to finish their college educations and earn degrees. Rainey said his educational experience at WKU has taught him skills that will last a lifetime. And while he's more widely known for his accomplishments on the football field, Rainey said, "my proudest moment as a WKU student will be when I receive my diploma this December." See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/06/freshman-assembly-2011/>